Flaws in identification of BPL families

*455. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee set up by his Ministry has pointed out that a large number of families living under chronic poverty are often excluded from Below Poverty Line (BPL) lists exposing flaws in systems of identification of BPL families by Government for implementing its mega anti-poverty programmes including Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether according to the panel, only 49.1 per cent of the poorest quintiles of the country possess BPL/Antoyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cards while 17.4 per cent of richest quintiles of the population possessed a BPL/AAY card;

(c) if so, what are the other points mentioned in the report;

(d) whether Government has considered the suggestions of the expert Committee; and

(e) what steps are being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002. For the next BPL Census, the Ministry of Rural Development has set up an Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group, *inter-alia*, include recommending a suitable methodology for conducting Census. The purpose of the Census is to identify the households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) in the rural areas who could be assisted under various poverty alleviation programmes of the Ministry. The Expert Group has not submitted its final report.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Fiscal deficit

*456. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amount of over Rs. 400000 crores has been shown as fiscal deficit per the budget for the year 2009-10;

(b) the manner in which Government proposes to meet this huge fiscal deficit; and

(c) the manner in which Government met such fiscal deficits during 2007-08 and 2008-09 and the details thereof, Head-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The fiscal deficit of the Government as per Budget Estimates 2009-2010 is Rs. 400996 crore.

(b) and (c) The financing of the deficit for the years 2007-08 (actual), 2008-09 (RE) and 2009-10 (BE) is as follows:—